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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

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Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 October 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48, 51, 56, 57, 60, 62, 63, 64, 69, 79, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 100, 101, 105, 112, 123, 132, 140, 142, 153 and 158, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 October 1994

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries to the Forty-Ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly met in New York on 5 October 1994 to coordinate their efforts and to take collective action on issues of concern and interest to the Non-Aligned Movement. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

2. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted with satisfaction the Report of the Chairman of the Movement on its activities. They expressed the view that those activities have made a significant contribution not only in strengthening the Movement's vital role in international relations but also in further promoting unity and solidarity among its members. They remain convinced of the continuing validity and relevance of the Movement's principles and objectives and expressed their firm resolve to build upon the progress achieved since the Tenth Summit Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, during 1 - 6 September 1992.

3. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation also recalled the conclusions, decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cairo, Egypt, from 31 May - 3 June 1994. They expressed their gratitude to the Government of Egypt for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

4. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their intention to coordinate positions and actions by the Non-Aligned countries during the forty-ninth session, both in Plenary and in the relevant Main Committees as well as with the Group of 77, through the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), as a means to increase solidarity and cooperation among members of the Movement, and enhance the role that the Non-Aligned Movement must play in the United Nations.

5. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation remain deeply concerned over the continuing acts of aggression, genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its people. In the face of unspeakable horrors, they called for decisive and effective measures to stop the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina including inter alia the lifting of the siege around Sarajevo and other cities, a re-deployment of United Nations forces along its borders with Serbia and Montenegro, reviewing its mandate to stem further aggression and to facilitate humanitarian aid as well as enforcement measures leading to the permanent cessation of all hostilities. They also called for a resolution of the conflict on the basis of the

United Nations Charter, the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the peace plan of the contact group. They reaffirmed the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They regretted the fact that Security Council resolutions which confirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders, have not been fully implemented. In this context, they reaffirmed the sanctity of borders of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They indicated that the Security Council should address, as a matter of urgency, the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and take concrete and effective measures to implement all its relevant resolutions, especially resolutions 824 and 836, to lift the siege of Sarajevo, of other besieged towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and especially the "safe areas" defined in the relevant Security Council resolutions. They also reaffirmed the resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina adopted at the NAM Ministerial Conference in Cairo and called for the immediate convening, under the United Nations auspices, of an appropriately structured international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their support for the peace process initiated at the Madrid Peace Conference of October 1991 which aims at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of land for peace.

7. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted the initiation of Palestinian self-government arrangements in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area which marked a new phase in the Palestinian-Israeli peace efforts. They called for the speedy extension of Palestinian self-government arrangements to encompass the entire occupied territories in implementation of the Declaration of Principles. They emphasized the need for international assistance to support development efforts in economic and social fields including rebuilding of the necessary infra-structures which was destroyed during the long years of occupation. They reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the Question of Palestine until the Palestinian people achieve their inalienable right to self-determination and a sovereign independent state on their national soil, and the solution of the issue of refugees in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. In this regard they emphasized the absolute necessity for the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly to reaffirm its position on the basic issues of the final peace settlement such as Jerusalem, the illegal settlements and the refugees. They also emphasized the need for the effective continuity of the mechanisms related to the Question of Palestine which was established by the General Assembly.

8. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted the Washington Declaration of 25 July 1994 issued by the Governments of Jordan and Israel which ended the state of war between them and paves the way for the restoration of occupied Jordanian territories and water rights,

thereby leading to the normalization of relations and a formal peace treaty. They were particularly gratified to note the Declaration's affirmation of the peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

9. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted with appreciation the remarkable efforts exerted by the Syrian and Lebanese Governments in order to open up possibilities for achieving progress in their full commitment to peace in the Middle East and called upon Israel to negotiate in good faith with Syria and Lebanon and demanded that Israel totally withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, Lebanese territories in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with international law, and the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. They were of the view that this objective should be actively pursued by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

10. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation welcomed once again the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's acceptance of Security Council resolution 731 (1992) and the initiatives it took to resolve the crisis between her and France, Britain and the United States. They emphasized the stance that the Non-Aligned countries have expressed regarding this crisis during the Jakarta Summit meeting and the Eleventh Ministerial Conference in Cairo. They expressed their concern over the negative effects resulting from the continuation of this crisis on the Libyan people, the neighboring countries and the whole region. They appealed to the parties concerned to refrain from taking any action that would lead to an escalation and called for action to resolve the crisis in a manner that protects the interests of all parties, in accordance with Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter. In this respect, they welcomed and supported the League of Arab States' resolution no. (5373) and called on the Security Council to take into consideration the contents of this resolution with a view to reaching a peaceful and just settlement to the crisis.

11. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation congratulated the Yemeni people on the victory of unity of their homeland and the restoration of stability in Yemen. In order to enable the Yemeni people overcome the consequences of the crisis, they called upon all the member states to assist in the infrastructure which was adversely affected.

12. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed profound regret at the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and the extensive material devastation in Rwanda arising from the crisis in that country which have resulted in appalling human suffering and in humanitarian crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Calling for an end to the violence and carnage, and of the war in Rwanda, they noted the decision to institute an international tribunal to bring the perpetrators of the heinous criminal activities in Rwanda to justice. They welcomed the establishment of a broad-

based government in Rwanda and called upon it to continue to encourage the return of refugees and displaced persons by guaranteeing their security and facilitating the commendable efforts of the international community at delivering humanitarian assistance throughout the country. They encouraged the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts to address in a comprehensive way the problems posed for Rwanda and the neighboring countries by the unprecedented outflow of refugees and noted with appreciation the United Nations Mission sent to the region to assess how Rwanda and the neighboring countries might be assisted. They invited the government of Rwanda to initiate talks aimed at facilitating the return and the reintegration of refugees in Rwanda and to address the political issues in the spirit of the Arusha Peace Agreement of 1993 under the auspices of the OAU. They noted the significant contribution made by the Non-Aligned countries to the peace-keeping operations in Rwanda.

13. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted the efforts being made by the United Nations, the OAU, in particular the neighboring countries, and the rest of the international community in finding solutions to the political and humanitarian crisis in Somalia. While they noted some progress on the humanitarian front, they regretted its fragility in the absence of a political settlement. They expressed concern that the task of protecting the vulnerable sections of the Somali society, encouraging the voluntary repatriation of the refugees, resettling the internally displaced persons and promoting a transition to renabilitation and reconstruction has been hampered by growing security problems. In this context, they called for the early convening of the National Reconciliation Conference and a Preparatory Meeting for the Conference in accordance with the Declaration of 24 March 1994 by the Somali leaders so as to reach a durable political settlement. They further directed the NAM Task Force on Somalia to continue to contribute to the efforts by the UN, the OAU, the League of Arab States, the OIC and the Standing Committee of the Countries on the Horn of Africa in reestablishing Somalia as a peaceful society. The Ministers called for the continued deployment of UNOSOM in Somalia until a political settlement is reached.

14. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation welcomed the installation on 7 March 1994 of the Council of State and the establishment of the Liberian National Transitional Government on 7 March 1994 in conformity with the Cotonou Agreement which constituted a positive step towards durable peace and stability in Liberia. They paid tribute to the ECOWAS, the OAU and the U.N. for the efforts exerted for the achievement of peace. They urged all parties concerned to proceed with the process of disarmament and demobilization as stated in the previous agreements. They further called on the international community to continue providing Liberia with all necessary assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of refugees, to contribute in the U.N. Trust Fund for Liberia and in the reconstruction of that country.

15. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the paragraphs on Korea adopted at the Cairo Ministerial Conference and welcomed the recent progress made in the efforts of resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. They expressed their hope that the nuclear issue would be expeditiously resolved by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiations among the concerned parties.

16. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted with satisfaction further positive developments of dialogue and cooperation for peace and security in Southeast Asia as demonstrated at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) recently held in Bangkok. They reaffirmed the paragraphs concerning this region adopted at the Cairo Ministerial Conference containing the principles for the resolution of sovereignty and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means.

17. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation called upon the Government of the United States to terminate the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba for over three decades and for the speedy and effective implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions. They further reaffirmed their view that differences between both countries should be resolved peacefully and through comprehensive negotiations. They noted the Joint Communique signed by both countries on migration issues of 9 September 1994 and expressed the view that it constituted a positive development in this direction.

18. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the paragraphs on Central America adopted at the Ministerial Conference in Cairo and gave their support to the Summit on Ecological Issues for Sustainable Development in Central America to be held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 12 and 13 October, and the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 24 and 25 October 1994.

19. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation proceeding from the position that the present status quo in Cyprus, established through the use of force and sustained by military strength, is unacceptable, expressed their deep regret and disappointment that so far no solution had been found. They therefore called for the intensification of efforts towards finding a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem based on the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and NAM's decisions in accordance with the principles and positions of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law.

20. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled the decisions of the Cairo Ministerial Conference on Angola and renewed their call on UNITA to negotiate in good faith with a view to reaching an agreement which would ensure lasting peace in the country. They reiterated

the appeal to the international community to urgently increase humanitarian assistance and urged UNITA to cooperate with United Nations agencies in the efforts to provide such assistance to the war affected populations.

21. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction that elections had been scheduled to be held in Mozambique in October 1994. They called upon all parties in Mozambique to ensure that the elections are held in a free and fair manner, and that the results of the elections are accepted by all parties.

22. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted that recent developments in Burundi had again given rise to the expectation that national reconciliation was feasible. In this context, they called upon all parties to redouble their efforts towards reconciliation and the pursuit of economic development. They called upon the international community to assist the Government and people of Burundi to the best of their capabilities.

23. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the principle of non-intervention and stressed the need for the return, without delay, which is even more urgent in the present juncture, of the legitimate authorities of Haiti and its democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They urged the international community to provide assistance to Haiti, once the Constitutional Government is restored, in order to contribute to the social and economic reconstruction of the country and the restoration of democracy.

24. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted the Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. They considered that it should be the object of an in-depth review by the General Assembly and entrusted the High Level Working Group for the Restructuring of the United Nations with the task of formulating the NAM position regarding the Report.

25. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their belief that the United Nations is the most appropriate international forum for the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the securing of the right to self-determination of the peoples under alien or colonial domination and foreign occupation, cooperation for development as well as the most important vehicle for the contribution of the NAM in shaping a new world order. To this end, the Ministers reiterated the Non-Aligned Movement's determination to play a leading role in contributing to the revitalization, restructuring and democratization of the United Nations system.

26. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted the efforts made for revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. In this regard, they welcomed General Assembly resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, which, inter alia, decided, in accordance with and subject to the relevant provisions of the Charter, to continue to use existing machinery and, when necessary, to consider the creation of new bodies in accordance with the Charter to facilitate the consideration of any question within the scope of the Charter. They decided that NAM delegations pursue the operationalization of this resolution at this session, particularly with a view to establishing or identifying the bodies to deal with questions of critical importance.

27. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation, having noted the report on the progress and work of the open-ended working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, reaffirmed their view that both the reform and expansion aspects of the Security Council, including its decision-making process and procedures, should be examined as integral parts of a common package, taking into account the principle of sovereign equality of states, criteria, such as equitable geographical distribution, and the need for transparency, accountability and democratization. They expressed their concern that Non-Aligned countries were extremely under-represented in the Council and underlined that the proposed enlargement should, therefore, be comprehensive in nature so as to enhance the credibility of the Council and to reflect the universal character of the world body. In this context, the Ministers recalled the relevant decisions of the Jakarta Summit and urged that the Non-Aligned countries should work towards increasing their representation in the Security Council.

28. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation urged the working group to determine the extent and nature of expansion and its modalities. Any pre-determined selection excluding the Non-Aligned and other developing countries, would be unacceptable to the Movement. They stressed the importance, as proposed in the Cairo Ministerial Conference, of enhancing the effective and efficient functioning of the Security Council by adopting measures geared at reforming its working methods and procedures and improving the relationship of the Council with the General Assembly, and non-members of the Security Council. In this context, they decided that the Non-Aligned Movement address specific measures called for by the Cairo Ministerial Conference before the commencement of the next round of consultations of the open-ended working group and reiterated their conviction that the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council should take priority action on these measures.

29. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the importance of the commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations for the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, and examined the activities carried-out by the NAM Working Group established for this purpose. They reiterated their views in this regard contained in the Final Document they adopted at their Eleventh Ministerial Conference, held in Cairo, and in particular reaffirmed their support for the Draft Solemn Declaration prepared by that Group and presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. They expressed their determination to continue promoting early and meaningful negotiations for a Solemn Declaration as well as the approach contained in the Non-Aligned's Draft as an appropriate means to further the Movement's position regarding the United Nations in the future.

30. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation representing the States Parties to the NPT regretted the failure of the Depositary States to demonstrate a genuine commitment to total nuclear disarmament within a time-bound framework in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, as well as to provide credible security assurances and to remove all restrictions on material and technologies for peaceful purposes to all non-nuclear States Parties to the Treaty. They therefore expressed the need to coordinate their positions during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly as well as during the Review and Extension Conference of the NPT and its preparatory process. In this regard they supported the convening of a meeting of senior officials. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation representing the States Parties to the NPT also reaffirmed their position put forward during the Third Preparatory Conference for the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT.

31. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation called upon the nuclear-weapon states to respond positively to the collective will of the international community for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. They remain committed to pursue the efforts aimed at achieving this goal through the successful conclusion of a universal, internationally and effectively verifiable, comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament early next year.

32. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation, representing the States Signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention and having recalled the relevant paragraphs of the Final Declaration of the Cairo Non-Aligned Ministerial Conference, expressed their concern at the lack of progress in negotiations in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on various issues, in particular Article 11 of the Convention relating to economic and technical cooperation in the chemical sector, which would entail negative implications for the future of the Chemical Weapons Convention, inter-alia, its timely coming into force, universal adherence and

effective implementation. They therefore reiterated the need for active participation and a more coordinated position of Non-Aligned countries signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention in the meetings of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as well as in the course of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

33. Recalling their decision at their May 1994 meeting regarding a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament to be convened at an appropriate time, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation called upon the Coordinating Bureau in New York to coordinate positions on this issue and make concrete recommendations for their consideration taking into account developments at the forty-ninth General Assembly.

34. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation decided to retable and put to the vote the resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

35. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled the paragraphs in the Final Documents of the Jakarta Summit on the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and General Assembly resolution 48/82 on that issue. They reaffirmed the importance of renewing global and regional efforts towards the realization of that goal. They noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean had continued consideration of new alternative approaches to the process of strengthening cooperation and ensuring peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean Region. They called upon the Permanent Members of the Security Council as well as major maritime users to participate in the work of the Committee as they considered that such participation would make the work of the Committee more useful.

36. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recognized the importance of peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, the unprecedented growth in their numbers and complexity as well as their contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, they underlined the significant role being played by the Non-Aligned countries, inter-alia, through their participation in peace-keeping operations. They also reaffirmed that all aspects of peace-keeping operations should strictly adhere to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They further recalled that at their meeting in Cairo in May 1994, they had, inter alia, postulated principles relevant to United Nations peace-keeping operations for the guidance of the members of the Movement during the forty-ninth General Assembly.

37. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation, reasserted their belief in the inter-relationship between peace, security and development and stressed that, now more than ever, lasting peace and security cannot be realistically assured in the absence of sustained economic growth and development. They also reiterated their conviction that because of the increased interdependence of countries and the continuing globalization of issues and problems, global answers and global solutions are imperative for achieving meaningful progress at the national, regional and global levels.

38. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled their decision on the need to operationalize Article 50 of the Charter. While this question has been under consideration for some time in various bodies of the United Nations, a meaningful mechanism has yet to be established to resolve the legitimate problems of affected States, in particular, Non-Aligned countries. They called for the early establishment of an appropriate mechanism by the Security Council so that following imposition of sanctions, affected countries are automatically ensured proper and equitable assistance to mitigate special economic problems arising out of sanctions implemented under Chapter VII of the Charter.

39. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation attested to the validity of the assessment of the world economic situation at the Cairo Ministerial Conference in May-June this year. While they noted with interest that the recent global indicators and projections heralded an improvement in the world economic growth rates, albeit at a slow pace, they however expressed their concern that many developing countries continue to face economic stagnation due to, among others, uneven and tardy growth rates in the world economy. Thus, they called on the international community to continue to promote a supportive economic environment, particularly for developing countries to facilitate their attempt to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

40. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation also stressed that in the context of the relevant international agreements and commitments, efforts should be made to support developing countries by promoting an open, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable international trading system; promoting foreign investment; reducing the debt burden; providing new and additional financial resources; access to technologies; and that structural adjustment programmes should be designed and implemented with due regard to social concerns.

41. At the macro-economic level, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation asserted that further policy coordination should be undertaken together with much needed reforms including fiscal consolidation and the reduction of unemployment to acceptable levels in the developed

countries. They further asserted that, given the growing impact of the developing countries on the world economy, it was timely to broaden their participation in the decision-making processes regarding the global economy. They also stressed that, due to increasing globalization of the world economy including that resulting from the newly adopted trading regime, the more vulnerable and weaker developing countries, particularly in Africa, should be given special attention.

42. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment for putting economic growth and development and the eradication of poverty back at the top of the international agenda. For this purpose and for ensuring a more equitable balance between its political, economic and social dimensions, they stressed the need to enhance the role of the United Nations in the field of development. In this context they reiterated the high priority they attach to the initiative of An Agenda for Development, supported the Statement on An Agenda for Development adopted by the Special Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 on 24 June 1994, and emphasized the need for the Secretary-General's revised report on the item, duly taking into account the G-77's Ministerial Statement, to propose action-oriented measures focussing on economic growth and development. They were of the view that the Agenda should recognize the role of development in contributing not only to human welfare but also to long-term peace and stability, and acknowledge that long-term development will minimize the need for preoccupation with damage control and emergency action. The Agenda for Development should integrate the strategies, mechanisms and means of cooperation and implementation agreed upon or being negotiated in United Nations conferences.

43. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation stressed that An Agenda for Development must strengthen the role of the United Nations in the area of international economic policy-making and coordination. To fulfill this role, the Agenda for Development must enhance the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other multilateral institutions for the promotion of sustained economic growth and development that particularly address the problems faced by the developing countries.

44. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation also decided to work, through the Group of 77, to formulate the Agenda for Development taking into account the Secretary-General's Report and the views expressed by the Member States. For this purpose they called for the setting-up of a Working Group of the Second Committee. They also asserted that the negotiations for an Agenda for Development would represent a clear test of the political will to implement General Assembly resolution 48/165 on the renewal of the dialogue between the developed and developing countries.

45. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation, reaffirmed their commitment to South-South cooperation as a necessary and viable strategy for greater collective self-reliance for national, regional and global development, and as a major mechanism for the promotion of growth and accelerated development. The dynamism introduced through such cooperation would also contribute to strengthening the world economy and restructuring of international economic relations. The United Nations system and the developed countries should support such cooperation, including through financial and technical assistance.

46. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation welcomed the signing of the Uruguay Round Agreement at Marrakesh, Morocco, in April 1994 and reiterated the need for their timely ratification. They stressed the need for continued evaluation of implementation of these Agreements to ensure increased market access and expansion of world trade for all countries, particularly the developing countries. In this context they welcomed the offer made by the Government of Singapore to host the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and affirmed the view that Singapore would be an appropriate venue for the first conference. The WTO, in its functioning, should contribute to a rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and uphold the rights and interests of the weaker trading partners. It is necessary that appropriate monitoring measures be established to ensure that, in the implementation of the Uruguay Round the interests of developing countries are adequately protected. Compensation should be provided to the developing countries facing difficulties. Attempts to by-pass and undermine multilaterally agreed liberalization of trade through resort to unilateral actions and demands for concessions, over and beyond those agreed to in the Round, as well as attempts to use environmental and social concerns for the protectionist purposes must be resisted. In this context, they also noted with concern the increasing use by developed countries of "anti-dumping" measures and countervailing duty action against developing countries. Trade policy cannot be an arbiter of all issues and the principle of comparative advantage, which is an inalienable basis of international trade, must be sustained. An over-burdening of the agenda of the WTO is likely to put the international trading system at risk and jeopardize the growth prospects of all countries. In the process of their increasing integration with the world economy, the developing countries will have special needs in terms of access to resources, markets and technology. An element of preference, assistance and compensation has to be an essential part of this new enhanced interdependence.

47. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated the importance they attach to financial flows for development. While they were encouraged with the progress achieved in enhancing the concessional mechanisms of the World Bank and the IMF, they expressed concern with the decline and poor prospects of the Official Development Assistance (ODA). They thus

urged their developed partners to strive to achieve the agreed target of 0.7% of their respective GNPs. While noting the conclusion of the Tenth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and the Restructuring and Replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the funding of the Special Programme for Sub-Sahara Africa (SPA3) they considered that these resources fell far short of what was required for development. They therefore, consider the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources for development from all available funding sources and mechanisms, including the creation of SDRs to be allocated for development. They also called on the developed partners to refrain from attaching conditionalities to development cooperation.

48. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated the urgent need for an effective, comprehensive and equitable, development-oriented and durable solution to the debt problem of the developing countries. They expressed deep concern that reverse transfer of resources resulting from the continuing debt and debt service burden has negatively affected the ability of the developing countries to generate growth, and to take measures aimed at social development, including realization of provision of housing, education, health and nutrition. They therefore, reiterated the need for more effective measures for reduction of the debt and debt servicing burden of the developing countries including cancellation of such debt. In this regard, they endorsed the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries on Debt and Development: Sharing of Experiences, held in Indonesia from 13 - 15 August 1994, that called upon the international community, particularly the donors and international financial institutions to, among others, adopt a common set of principles for future debt negotiations which would include a once and for all settlement of all outstanding debts and the application of substantial debt reduction measures to all categories of debt, including multilateral debt. They were also encouraged by the Group of 7 positive response to the memorandum of the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement on this issue as reflected in its Naples Summit Communique, which inter-alia "encourage the Paris Club to pursue its efforts to improve the debt treatment of the poorest and most indebted countries and, where appropriate, to reduce the stock of debt as well as to increase concessionality for those countries facing special difficulties". They stressed however, that any approach should cover all types of debt and debtor developing countries. In addition, they urged that innovative measures such as debt for equity swaps, debt for social development swaps, debt for environment swaps etc. should be considered and applied effectively.

49. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation also stressed the importance of science and technology as a fundamental component of economic growth and development. They deemed it essential that technology, including environmentally sound technology should be transferred on preferential and concessional terms to the developing countries and that their

endogenous capacities should be fully supported. They were of the view that technology flows cannot be left only to the private sector. Information on and flows of environmentally sound technologies must be promoted. Barriers should be removed to the access to and transfer of technologies to the developing countries. In this regard, they highlighted that the United Nations system should have a more active role in this area and in this context they expressed the concern that UNCTAD has not been provided with adequate resources to fully fulfill its mandate in the technology sector.

50. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation welcomed the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994 and stressed the importance of the interlinkage between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. They called for the implementation of the recommendations contained in Cairo Program of Action on the national, regional and international levels. They underscored the vital importance of the role of both the international community and the United Nations system in mobilizing the necessary resources for the implementation of the Program of Action. They highlighted the necessity of establishing a follow-up mechanism to review the progress achieved in its implementation. In this context they welcomed with interest the launching of "Partners in Population and Development: A South-South Initiative" in the framework of the ICPD and expressed the hope that all interested developing countries would join in this initiative.

51. The Ministers and Heads of delegation welcomed the operationalization of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) between the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement in June 1994 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Group of 77.

52. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their adherence to the principle of people-centered development and stressed the importance of human resource development as a means for enlarging the choices available to people and for improving the quality and standards of their lives. They also considered human resource development as a critical frontal attack for combatting under development, unemployment and a plethora of socio-economic and political problems.

53. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation gave special priority to the social and economic transformation of their societies and in this context they stressed the importance of international economic cooperation, increased market access and expanded world trade in order to create productive employment and investment in rural and urban areas and to strengthen social programmes in health, education and housing.

54. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their solemn commitment of their countries to fulfill their obligations to promote universal respect for, observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedom for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.

55. The Ministers observed that world events have led to greater political pluralism, respect for democratic principles and both the recognition and the exercise of the right to self-determination of peoples under alien or colonial domination or foreign occupation as a universal and indivisible right. They affirmed that democracy provides for a transparent system of protection and promotion of human rights. All nations have the right to freely establish their own political, social, economic and cultural systems on the basis of respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Violations and abuses of human rights should not be condoned under any circumstances.

56. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. They affirmed that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The U.N. role should be the promotion of international cooperation in solving social and humanitarian problems, emphasizing the right to development as a basic human right, the fulfillment of which is crucial for the international community. They also emphasized that the need for protection and promotion of human rights should be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the spirit of an international dialogue for cooperation. They strongly rejected the use of human rights as a means of political exploitation or as a condition for assistance in other fields. They emphasized the need for appropriate balance between fundamental rights and freedom on the one hand and the obligations to the society and the State on the other. They reiterated their concern over a tendency to address aspects of human rights selectively for new or old political motives and to neglect economic, social and cultural rights which relate more intimately to human basic needs. They reiterated the need for an evaluation of the existing mechanism and procedures of the United Nations human rights bodies to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the objective set out in the Vienna Declaration as well as those principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development. They expressed satisfaction that the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights had commenced its work satisfactorily and agreed to coordinate positions during the forty-ninth General Assembly in order to secure the allocation of necessary resources for the fulfillment of his mandate.

57. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the World Summit for Social Development to be convened in Copenhagen in 1995, and stressed the importance of adopting at that occasion an action-oriented Declaration and Programme of Action with clear objectives, to which political will and genuine commitment from the international community, especially the developed countries, in order to assist developing countries to actively implement the follow-up activities. Furthermore, particular attention should be given to the core issues of eradication of poverty and fostering the necessary condition and environment for the creation of productive employment which are essential for the achievement of social development. They underscored the importance of entering a new era of dialogue and cooperation in advancing social and economic development, based on equal partnership.

58. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace to be convened in Beijing in 1995. They renewed their call for convening the Fourth Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries devoted to the Role of Women in Development, to be held in preparation for the World Conference on Women.

59. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment to combat production, trafficking and consumption of illicit narcotics and psychotropic substances, unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally, and to implement the measures recommended by the United Nations in General Assembly resolution 48/12. They called on all countries to strengthen their cooperation at regional and international levels, in concerted and comprehensive action to address all aspects of the problem, directly and indirectly, including the fight against sale and traffic of illicit drugs through inter-alia joint and preventive measures, introduction of substitute crops as well as provision of necessary facilities.

60. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that the contribution of all Member States to the cost of peace-keeping should be in accordance with the existing special scale of assessments established by Resolution 3101 (XXVIII), which takes into account the special responsibilities of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as certain economic considerations. These contributions should, therefore, be paid on time and in full, in accordance with their obligation under Article 17(2) of the United Nations Charter. Participation of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries is an important factor for the success of peace-keeping operations and, therefore, it is necessary to address the problems of reimbursement for troop costs and compensation to participating countries, in particular Non-Aligned and other developing countries. A uniform United Nations scale for death and disability compensation for peace-keeping personnel also needs to be established urgently.

61. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted with concern the serious financial situation that confronts the United Nations today, and stressed the need for all Member States to meet their financial obligations to the Organization promptly and in full in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter. They were of the view that in this regard the major contributors could take the lead so that the Organization's financial health is restored speedily.

62. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated that the principle of the capacity to pay must remain the fundamental criterion underlying any review of the methodology for apportionment of the Organization's expenses, and that the guidelines and practices that have been established over the years should be built upon to better reflect this principle.

63. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation were of the view that issues pertaining to the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat should be discussed in-depth by the General Assembly, in particular the report presented in that regard by the Secretary-General to the forty-ninth session, as contained in document A/49/336.

64. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the importance to continue examining the issue of the restructuring of the Security Council in all pertinent bodies, including the Charter Committee.

65. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation noted that codification of international law had proceeded in recent years at a rapid pace. Further, following the end of the Cold War, many sections of the international legal order were undergoing far-reaching transformation and new rules and practices were coming into being. This is an area of vital concern for all Non-Aligned countries. They therefore called upon the Coordinating Bureau at New York to take comprehensive stock of the on-going codification and changes in international law in different spheres. They called upon the United Nations Secretariat to assist in this important enterprise.

66. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation strongly condemned terrorism and its violations of human rights, illicit arms trafficking, drug trafficking and kidnapping as well as similar acts aimed at threatening the stability of governments and stressed the need for steps to be taken to prevent and combat them.

67. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation recalled the relevant paragraphs on terrorism in the Jakarta and Cairo Declarations and decided that practical measures should be taken in the current session of the General Assembly to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Non-Aligned countries should therefore work towards the adoption by the

forty-ninth session of a Declaration against Terrorism as a first step towards adopting a Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism taking into account all available precedents on the subject.

68. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation called for all States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They further called for a special Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 1995, to be devoted to youth affairs. Such a session should be convened at an appropriate date to coincide with celebrations of the Fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

69. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation decided to commemorate the Fortieth anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference of 1955. They entrusted the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York to discuss practical arrangements for its commemoration in the Movement.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Convening of a United Nations conference for the comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/113 of 20 December 1993 concerning the convening of a United Nations conference for the comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly, taking into consideration the complexity and urgency of the global refugee crisis and the need for the international community to adopt a comprehensive approach for the coordination of action with regard to refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants, and recognizing the need to develop innovative strategies, mechanisms and decisions in that field:

(a) Took note of the proposal to convene a United Nations conference for the comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants;

(b) Invited all Member States, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to undertake reviews and submit recommendations to the Secretary-General with regard to the appropriateness of convening such a conference, taking into consideration, inter alia, the deliberations of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the work of the representative of the Secretary-General;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the recommendations received pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) above.

3. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary-General requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to coordinate preparation of the present report to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. In preparing this report UNHCR wrote to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations on 1 June 1994 to solicit their views on the convening of such a conference. A broad range of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in one form or another, with refugee issues and other aspects of population movement were also consulted.

4. By 26 September 1994, replies had been received from the following 31 Governments:

Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holy See, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

5. In addition, the following United Nations bodies and international and intergovernmental organizations had presented their views:

United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, League of Arab States, Organization of American States, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and International Organization for Migration.

6. Replies had also been received from the following non-governmental organizations:

CARE International, Church World Service, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Rescue Committee and Migration and Refugee Services (United States Catholic Conference).

Responses from Governments

7. There was agreement in the responses received from Governments that there had been great changes in the scope and complexity of population movements since the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, that they were of global dimensions and that they posed urgent new challenges to the international community. In a world with over 23 million refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, with perhaps an even greater number of internally displaced persons, where migration has taken on

proportions unknown in previous eras, the need to formulate effective strategies for solutions and the prevention of new refugee flows and other uncontrolled population movements was repeatedly highlighted in view of the repercussions of such movements on political and economic stability at the national, regional and global levels.

8. Many respondents pointed to the inadequacy of fragmented national approaches to such issues and recognized the need for comprehensive approaches on a regional and/or global basis to the problems of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants. The viability of such approaches, it was repeatedly pointed out, was, however, predicated on international cooperation and solidarity.

9. A number of respondents drew attention to the wide range of existing multilateral forums dealing with refugee and migratory movements. The proposal for an international conference, it was suggested, had to be examined in the context of existing mechanisms and mandates. The work of the General Assembly, UNHCR, the Council of Europe, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Organization for Migration and the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons were cited in this context.

10. Many replies from Governments specifically drew attention to the consideration being given to the question of migration and/or refugee movements in the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Social Summit, to be held in 1995, and stressed the need for coordination between these conferences and the initiative proposed in resolution 48/113. A number of respondents were of the view that the outcome of these deliberations (particularly those of the International Conference on Population and Development) should be awaited and assessed before resorting to new initiatives. One respondent stressed that the International Conference on Population and Development had produced, as part of its programme of action, the first universally agreed, comprehensive set of migration policy objectives. It further noted that a proposal had emerged from the proceedings of the Conference for a conference on migration and development and felt that a conference such as the one proposed under resolution 48/113 could become the vehicle for a comprehensive review of global migration, once concrete achievements and specific needs had been assessed at national and regional levels.

11. Of the 31 Governments responding to the request by UNHCR for their views, 12 were clearly in favour of an international conference. Many of them underlined the global scope of refugee and migratory movements and the need to develop new strategies and mechanisms.

12. Among those who endorsed the proposal for a global conference, one respondent recalled that the World Conference on Human Rights had recognized the necessity of a comprehensive approach by the international community in coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned and relevant organizations, bearing in mind the mandate of UNHCR. The refugee crisis, the respondent argued, required a range of exceptional measures including preventive action to forestall mass coerced displacements of populations as a result of violation of their rights and lack of basic conditions for their secure

existence. Also needed was joint action to stop illegal migration and with regard to other types of migration towards countries with higher standards of living. Moreover, it expressed the view that consideration of the whole range of refugee and migrant problems would help to invigorate the work of the existing international mechanisms and expand the role of regional institutions in a spirit of international solidarity. In respect of the methodology of the conference it stressed the need for careful preparation and argued in favour of combining a universal approach, involving the organization of preparatory meetings, and a regional/subregional one involving the formulation of agreed positions and measures within a narrower geographical framework.

13. Another respondent favouring the convening of a global conference felt that the conference could usefully focus on such issues as migration and development and examine political, economic and cultural phenomena underlying migration, as well as external pressures beyond the control of countries of origin. In the view of the same respondent, the conference could examine ways of eliminating discriminatory practices against refugees and providing special support for vulnerable groups. The same respondent suggested that the conference should seek to revise the terms of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in order to make it a comprehensive, balanced and impartial instrument.

14. Yet another Government reiterated its interest in mobilizing international political support for concerted and comprehensive action on global migration issues and supported the idea of a United Nations migration conference if the conditions were in place to ensure that such a meeting could achieve progress towards an orderly and humane migration regime at the global level. It felt that a first step in that direction was to ensure the success of regional efforts towards comprehensive migration strategies. Not until such regional processes are seen to bear fruit, it felt, can a global conference hope to achieve concrete results.

15. Several Governments that favoured the convening of a global conference stressed the need for thorough preparations as a prerequisite for its success.

16. Other respondents favourably disposed to the idea of a global conference also stressed the need for thorough preparation and for a clear definition of the aims of the conference so as to ensure the adoption of concrete conclusions. One respondent suggested that the broadly defined aim of the conference should be to develop new measures to address population movements resulting from ethnic conflict, as well as practical application of principles of international solidarity and cooperation. The conference might also, it suggested, look at the concept of "safe country" and measures to prevent repeated applications for asylum. The same Government argued that it would be necessary to seek ways to eliminate, at least to a certain extent, the complexities of the global conference, which were characterized by diversity of participants and interests, and suggested that the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee should be considered. Another Government suggested that a conference should look not only at solutions to the problems of refugees but should also mobilize international support for host countries. Yet another stressed that the conference should lead to the adoption of practical measures conducive to durable solutions and suggested that it might consider additional multilateral instruments in this regard, including an extension of the 1951 Convention to

cover other categories, notably the internally displaced. While favouring a global approach, the same Government pointed out that the political will of participating countries to tackle root causes of regional and ethnic conflicts, poverty, social decline and underdevelopment was a prerequisite for success. Yet another Government felt that the conference should consider ways to expand the mandate of UNHCR to render assistance to States in relation to economic refugees/migrants, asylum-seekers, displaced persons and returnees. In endorsing the idea of the global conference, one respondent specified that it should exclude the issue of Palestinian refugees.

17. A majority of the 31 Governments responding expressed varying degrees of reticence concerning the idea of convening an international conference. Issues, it was pointed out by several respondents, were not identical in different parts of the world; past experience, one of them remarked, had confirmed that such conferences tend to produce little or nothing in terms of adequate and speedy actions. Yet another pointed to the diversity of causes underlying contemporary problems of displacement and to the heterogenous nature of the target group addressed in resolution 48/113, arguing that, for analytical as well as for political and legal reasons, they were better considered separately. According to one respondent it was hard to see how an international conference which tried to encompass all the diverse aspects of international movements could be sufficiently focused to result in meaningful discussion and practical solutions. Several other respondents also felt that a global conference would not be able to find solutions to the host of problems associated with refugees and migrants, and expressed a preference for a more focused regional approach.

18. Others, while less categorical in their views, were reluctant to envisage the convening of a global conference within a short time-frame. One respondent felt, moreover, that a global conference would require greater understanding of the underlying issues involved and felt it would be useful only after more detailed consideration of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace and Agenda for Development had progressed.

19. In view of the complexity of refugee and migratory movements world wide, a considerable number of respondents expressed a strong preference for regional approaches as a more promising alternative to a global conference and more likely to lead to tangible results.

20. In its reply, one Government stressed that the real problems and needs of the displaced could be better addressed by a group of countries and agencies facing similar challenges. Another underlined the need for solution-oriented approaches in which the methods of cooperation and the choice of measures were adapted to each individual situation. A regional or subregional action-oriented approach based on a shared perception of the problems by host countries, countries of origin, other interested countries, non-governmental organizations and international organizations and directed at the adoption and implementation of comprehensive approaches, would, it argued, prove more effective than a world conference, given the diversity of the problems involved.

21. A number of respondents pointed out that the merits of regional approaches had already been demonstrated by the International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese

Refugees. Regional conferences, it was felt, could apply comprehensive approaches to specific groups and categories so as to address their problems in a holistic way. One respondent stressed, however, that regional conferences could only be supported if priority was given to regions hosting the largest number of refugees.

22. A number of respondents specifically welcomed the High Commissioner's initiative to develop a comprehensive approach to the problems of displacement in the countries of the former Soviet Union, involving analysis of the situation within and among the countries of the region, with attention to root causes, prevention, emergency responses, preparedness and solutions.

Responses from intergovernmental organizations

23. Responses from intergovernmental organizations echoed those of Governments in respect of the complexity of current problems of displacement.

24. Of the 12 intergovernmental agencies that responded, 2 expressed strong support for a global conference. Two others saw distinct merit in the idea of convening such a conference, both of them stressing the need to define terms of reference and to undertake careful and detailed preparatory work through, inter alia, regional or thematic meetings.

25. A number of other respondents expressed a strong preference for action-oriented regional approaches. While some did not exclude an eventual global conference to be prepared through regional meetings, others favoured a more cautious step-by-step approach, with the results of any regional meeting to be assessed before deciding upon a global conference.

Responses from non-governmental organizations

26. Of the five non-governmental organizations that responded, two expressed support for a global conference. One expressed the view that the diversity of the issues and the regional situations involved were so distinct that a global conference might be too general and abstract to be of significant practical value. Another favoured a regional approach, at least in the first instance.

Regional initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

27. In recent years, UNHCR has stressed the importance of comprehensive regional approaches to problems of displacement and has developed a number of action-oriented initiatives in response to regional problems. Notable among these have been the International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees.

28. More recently, the magnitude of actual or potential refugee movements and other forms of involuntary displacement in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States has been a cause of increasing concern. In parallel with consultations on resolution 48/113, UNHCR has, therefore, launched an initiative to promote and develop a comprehensive strategy to address the situation in that region.

29. Drawing on previous regional initiatives, the Office has proposed a series of consultations leading to an international conference on the region that will be held in 1995. Further deliberations on General Assembly resolution 48/113 will need to take account of this regional initiative, which is in accordance with the preference expressed in the majority of the responses received from the Governments and organizations consulted on that resolution.

Coordination within the United Nations system

30. It should be noted that problems related to population displacement involving refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees are also addressed within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has set up an Inter-Agency Task Force on internally displaced persons. The objective is to identify ways and means for the international community to provide timely and speedy humanitarian assistance and support to the countries affected by internal displacement. In this context, account is taken of the complementarities of mandates and expertise of relevant organizations in providing humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons.

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International Conference on Central American Refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

I. FIVE YEARS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE UPROOTED

1. The convening by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) in May 1989 in Guatemala, at the request of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua, was a prompt and effective response to the proposals set forth by the Presidents of the Central American countries in the historic Esquipulas II agreements. 1/ Those agreements established the groundwork for the search for a negotiated peace and expressed the conviction that peace and development were inseparable. It was also stated on that occasion that a durable peace could not be achieved without initiatives which would help to resolve the problem of over 2 million persons displaced by the conflicts.

2. A highlight of CIREFCA was the adoption of the Concerted Plan of Action, 2/ which set out a strategy for the pursuit of solutions to the problems of uprooted populations, comprising refugees, returnees and displaced persons. The Plan of Action was based on commitments made by all the participants in the Conference: convening Governments, cooperating countries and the United Nations system. In order to ensure the implementation of the Plan, national, regional and international mechanisms for promotion and follow-up were established: support groups and committees at the national level and the CIREFCA Follow-Up Committee at the regional level. For their part, and in response to the request for support expressed at the Conference, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) created the UNHCR/UNDP CIREFCA Joint Support Unit.

3. CIREFCA made a substantial contribution to the peace process in the region by linking the rights of refugees to respect for human rights. It showed that peace, development and human rights were all closely linked and were interdependent, in other words, that a solution to the problem of uprootedness was a precondition for the consolidation of peace. Respect for human rights was the key element in the contribution of the seven countries towards regional peace.

4. The CIREFCA process linked, for the first time, the problems of refugees with those of returnees and displaced persons. That conceptual advance opened the door for the inclusion of development components in emergency assistance. The programmes and projects ranged from immediate emergency assistance to efforts to integrate populations into development processes. They benefited both the uprooted and the local communities which received them. Various innovative solutions were applied, from the so-called "Quick Impact Projects" (QIPs) to the local development strategy embodied in the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE).

5. CIREFCA facilitated the voluntary repatriation, in conditions of security and dignity, of 70,000 Nicaraguans, 30,000 Salvadorians and 16,000 Guatemalans, shut down enclosed refugee camps, and promoted the adoption of specific measures to regularize the situation of refugees and returnees.

6. CIREFCA promoted dialogue and cooperation throughout the region, drew attention to the human aspect of the conflicts, eased internal tensions and created opportunities for dialogue and cooperation between opposing parties. The voluntary repatriations and the implementation of projects in areas affected by internal conflicts helped to reconcile society, while fostering understanding and respect for human rights.

7. Mention should also be made of the adaptation of protection mechanisms to the gender-specific needs of women and of their increasing participation in the planning, execution and evaluation of projects and in the study and promotion of their rights as human beings and citizens. These efforts were made possible by the inclusion of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit and the holding of the first Regional Forum on Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women (FOREFEM).

8. To sum up, CIREFCA provided a regional forum for joint humanitarian action which facilitated a concerted search for solutions by the convening and the cooperating countries, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. Efforts could thus be combined to facilitate the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action.

9. At the Third, and last, International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee, held in Mexico City on 28 and 29 June 1994 and attended by many representatives of the international community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and agencies of the United Nations system, the CIREFCA process was formally concluded and a broad framework for sustainable human development was adopted. Within that framework, the experience and achievements of CIREFCA will be applied to the elimination of extreme poverty and social exclusion, while

efforts will continue to be directed towards the pending problem of uprootedness.

II. CONTRIBUTION OF CIREFCA TO PEACE IN THE REGION

A. Progress achieved in the convening countries

10. The CIREFCA process began in 1989 in a conflict region. The end of the conflict in Nicaragua, the signing of the Peace Agreement 3/ in El Salvador and the progress achieved in the peace negotiations in Guatemala made it possible to devote more attention to uprooted populations. In turn, CIREFCA contributed to the regional peace process by achieving progress in protection, the implementation of durable solutions for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and the creation of opportunities for consultation and dialogue.

11. This progress was made possible by the promulgation and implementation, by the Governments of the seven countries, of policies conducive to lasting solutions for uprooted populations, especially policies relating to the protection of such groups, internal legislation and human rights, and assistance and development programmes. In their endeavours and activities on behalf of uprooted populations the Governments relied on the support of the international donor community, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system, particularly UNHCR and UNDP. The advances achieved by the seven CIREFCA countries include the following:

(a) Belize acceded to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees 4/ and to the 1967 5/ Protocol; it adopted national legislation incorporating those international instruments, as well as the definition of a refugee contained in the Cartagena Declaration. Over 30,000 Central American refugees and displaced persons (about 15 per cent of the total population of Belize) are currently residing in 80 per cent of Belizean communities. The Government nevertheless adopted a global policy aimed at the local integration of those groups. This policy was implemented through programmes and projects benefiting both refugees and Belizeans, including a nationwide programme of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs);

(b) Costa Rica has pursued a set of policies ranging from recognition of and respect for asylum and support for and promotion of the repatriation processes to the political resolve to facilitate the local integration of refugees. The Government took major steps in the area of immigration policy: a state of emergency was declared on two occasions (July 1990 and January 1994) and an Executive Decree was issued in November 1992 which facilitated a change in the status of over 10,000 refugees from immigrant to permanent or temporary resident. These immigration policies provided for a gradual planned process of the legal and socio-economic integration of refugees, as a result of which the country's refugee camps were closed. Of the 45,000 Central Americans who had sought refuge in Costa Rica, some 25,000 opted to remain there;

(c) The Peace Agreement signed at Chapultepec, Mexico City, between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) in January 1992 led to an increase in requests for voluntary repatriation to El Salvador. In March 1992, the Government promulgated Decrees

Nos. 204 and 205 which facilitated the replacement of registries destroyed during the conflict and the issue of personal identity documents: as a result, over 1 million individuals were provided with documentation through a CIREFCA project. That project contributed to the process of the consolidation of peace and democracy in the country inasmuch as it allowed many Salvadorians to exercise their political and civil rights in the recent general elections. At the same time, a number of social, economic and infrastructure projects were implemented with a view to promoting the reintegration of returnees, former combatants and internally displaced persons, projects which also benefited the populations of the communities which had received them. Some of these projects form part of the Government's National Reconstruction Plan;

(d) In Guatemala, CIREFCA has evolved in the political context of peace-building and it has therefore been closely bound up with the question of assistance to uprooted populations; this was given special attention in the substantive negotiating agenda agreed upon between the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The launching of the national peace plan promulgated by the Government in October 1993 gives priority to assistance to the uprooted population, enhancing the operational capacity of the National Commission for Returnees, Refugees and Displaced Persons (CEAR) and promoting its closer relationship with the National Peace Fund (FONAPAZ). In recent months the peace process has made considerable headway; the Agreement between the Government and URNG, signed in Oslo on 17 June 1994 (A/48/954-S/1994/751, annex I), establishes the necessary framework for the integration of the populations uprooted as a result of the conflict in Guatemala. The number of returnees registered between 1989 and 1994 amounted to 16,000, over half of them having returned after the signing of the agreement of 8 October 1992 between the Government and the Permanent Commissions of Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico (CCPP);

(e) Honduras acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol in October 1991 and its accession was ratified by the Congress in December 1991. In addition, Honduras facilitated the provision of assistance to over 66,000 persons (recognized refugees and non-recognized refugees) both in camps and integrated into national communities. Having also facilitated the voluntary repatriation of those refugees, Honduras closed all the refugee camps in the early 1990s and undertook development projects in favour of Honduran communities which had received refugees for more than a decade and which were suffering from extreme poverty;

(f) During the past five years, Mexico has provided assistance to over 45,000 Guatemalans settled in the south-eastern part of the country and has assisted 5,000 urban externally displaced persons and over 1,000 political refugees. In July 1990, in fulfilment of commitments under the CIREFCA Concerted Plan of Action, additions and amendments to the General Population Act were promulgated to make provision for refugees. The regulations introduced under the Act entered into force in October 1992 and ensured appropriate status for the country's refugee population. In addition, in order to promote the self-sufficiency of Guatemalan refugees in Campeche, Chiapas and Quintana Roo, the Mexican Government implemented a series of CIREFCA projects which included activities relating to production, the infrastructure and social development. In the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo, the "multiple-year plan" financed by

the international donor community succeeded in meeting the planned targets, thus advancing the processes of local integration and development of the refugee communities in those States;

(g) In Nicaragua, the principal result of the activities undertaken within the framework of CIREFCA by the Government, the international donor community, NGOs, and UNHCR and UNDP has been support for the process of reconciliation in Nicaraguan society. These activities have contributed to the socio-economic integration of the target population in areas severely affected by the war, which were being repopulated by some 70,000 returnees and by demobilized combatants and war victims. From the outset, the programmes and projects were based on an integrated approach. In the first stage, priority was given to the rehabilitation and construction of basic infrastructure (schools, health centres, roads) with the introduction of the innovative Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), which facilitated the settlement of uprooted populations. The next stage saw the rehabilitation and development of agricultural and livestock production through development programmes such as PRODERE and the Project for the integrated development of the displaced, refugee and returnee population in two areas of the Atlántico Sur Autonomous Region (PRORAAS), as well as those of the European Commission. Moreover, during the CIREFCA process, a mechanism for coordination through community participation was developed in the form of so-called municipal development committees in which each of the various organizations in the municipality is represented.

12. In the preamble to the CIREFCA Concerted Plan of Action, it is recognized that solutions to the problems of uprooted populations can be achieved only with the cooperation of, and respect for, all the interested parties. It is for that reason that the continuing pursuit of consensus among all the actors has permeated the entire CIREFCA process from the outset. In this context, significant progress has been made in cooperation between Governments and NGOs, especially in Belize, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. In the case of El Salvador, the process of reconciliation that resulted from the Peace Agreement facilitated, and in turn was facilitated by, concerted action between the Government and NGOs within the framework of CIREFCA. In that case, as in the case of the other countries concerned, the strategies and projects based on revised priorities which were presented to the international community for financing at the Second International Meeting of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee in San Salvador (April 1992) were described in coordinated national documents.

13. Among the coordination mechanisms provided for in the Concerted Plan of Action mention should be made of the participation of the seven convening Governments in the Follow-up Committee, the main task of which was to monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action and to adapt policies and strategies to the changes taking place at both the national and the regional levels. During the five years of the process, the Committee met regularly, holding 22 working meetings. Representatives of cooperating countries and national and international non-governmental organizations were invited to attend three of those meetings; this greatly facilitated rapprochement between the various actors involved in the process. The Follow-up Committee provided a regional forum for the discussion of topics relating to support for and the strengthening of the peace process, the importance of respect for and the effective exercise of human rights and the need to coordinate and expand dialogue among various

sectors of society, as well as the recognition of NGOs as institutions which complemented governmental activities in favour of uprooted populations.

B. Support of the United Nations

14. In accordance with the principles enunciated in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace 6/ and Agenda for Development, 7/ the role of the United Nations system in regional peace and democratization processes has comprised a whole range of activities, including participation in peace negotiations and the signing of agreements; the verification of such agreements and support for their implementation; assistance in the processes of the demobilization of combatants and their socio-economic reintegration; supervision of electoral processes; the strengthening or restoration of democratic institutions; and the provision of assistance for reconstruction, reconciliation and development activities. Similarly, the treatment of human rights, based on the principle of the importance of the individual, recognizing that these rights include not only civil and political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights, has been central to the activities of the United Nations system in the region.

15. Progress in the peace and reconciliation process in the region has facilitated a growing process of repatriation, especially of Nicaraguans, Salvadorians and Guatemalans. This has permitted the closing of all refugee camps in Central America, as the numbers of returnees have exceeded those of refugees, and assistance to these populations is gradually being seen as falling within the framework of development. In this evolving process, the international community has conferred on UNDP the role of monitoring the observance of peace agreements and supporting the processes of democratization. Similarly, the complementarity of the mandates of UNHCR and UNDP has allowed a gradual shift in leadership between UNHCR and UNDP within the framework of CIREFCA. CIREFCA represents a successful example of inter-agency cooperation, in coordination with the Secretary-General.

16. The joint work of UNHCR and UNDP within the framework of CIREFCA has spanned many fields, including in particular: conceptual advances in the debate over the transition from emergency to development; assistance in the preparation of coordinated national strategies in favour of populations and areas affected by extreme poverty, conflicts and uprootedness; the gradual incorporation of a gender-specific approach into all activities, as a result of the inclusion of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the UNHCR/UNDP CIREFCA Joint Support Unit; the monitoring of progress in the area of the protection and defence of the human rights of uprooted populations; participation, through the Joint Support Unit, in the discussions on the problems of internally displaced persons undertaken by the Standing Conference on Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas; training programmes in the identification, preparation, evaluation and follow-up of projects for government officials and NGOS (jointly with PRODERE and the Regional Unit of Technical Assistance (Central America) (RUTA) agricultural project); the search for both humanitarian and development financing through constant efforts to make donors aware of the needs; support for the processes and mechanisms of coordination, especially between Governments and NGOs; and assistance in promoting the recognition by Governments of the legal status of certain NGOS.

17. Through CIREFCA, the coordinated response of the Secretary-General, UNHCR and UNDP made it possible to establish conceptual and practical links between the search for peace, development, respect for human rights and concerted action. The functions of the mechanism of inter-agency cooperation, the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit, included discussion, consciousness-raising among the actors participating in the process, prevention, information, follow-up, technical cooperation with the Governments of the convening countries and support for the operation of the mechanisms of the Plan of Action. Moreover, in the majority of the countries of the region, working relations were developed between the field offices of the two agencies in support, for example, of the processes of repatriation and integration, the local integration of refugees, documentation of uprooted populations and technical cooperation with Governments.

18. CIREFCA provided a framework to facilitate the discharge of the respective mandates and roles of UNHCR and UNDP. As an innovative solution for the transition from emergency to self-sufficiency, UNHCR developed the formula of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua in the amount of approximately $20 million, contributed by various donors. The QIPs benefited communities in which not only populations falling within the sphere of UNHCR but also internally displaced persons, former combatants and the local population were located; the same could be said of the populations which were the target of the documentation project executed by UNHCR in El Salvador. These activities were in addition to those carried out by UNHCR as part of its traditional role of providing protection and assistance, such as the mass and individual repatriation operations in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and the local integration projects in Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico.

19. As part of CIREFCA, the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE) has made a substantial contribution, during the past four and a half years, towards alleviating the adverse effects of the conflicts and social exclusion in 11 areas of the subregion. To date, it has benefited more than 1 million people living in poverty in areas directly or indirectly affected by the war and it represents a significant contribution to the consolidation of peace in Central America.

20. The Government of Italy has contributed $115 million through UNDP for this programme, which is to conclude in the middle of 1995. A number of other sources, including UNDP (from its own resources), the Capital Development Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Guatemala, have made additional resources available, bringing the total to $158 million.

21. PRODERE has promoted and established participating mechanisms and systems in the field of human rights, education (more than 340 schools constructed or repaired; 4,700 educators trained and 53,000 beneficiaries of adult education programmes), health (105 centres constructed or repaired), vocational training, local development agencies, credit and production-related projects (micro-enterprises, agricultural development), infrastructure (drinking water supply for 91,000 people and more than 1,300 kilometres of roads constructed or repaired) and, in general, local development.

22. The experience acquired by PRODERE in Central America has made it possible to transfer politically acceptable and operationally feasible solutions to other nations and regions of the world affected by internal violence. This is being carried out in close association with other organizations in the United Nations system, in particular UNHCR. UNDP itself has used this experience as a basis to formulate and administer new programmes in Mozambique, Somalia, Rwanda, Eritrea and Cambodia and to devise regional initiatives, particularly for the Horn of Africa.

23. Above and beyond situations of conflict, PRODERE has been recognized as an example in the application of the principles of sustainable human development at the local level and the programme approach advocated by UNDP.

24. UNDP is also executing other projects within the framework of CIREFCA such as the PRORAAS project in the Atlántico Sur region of Nicaragua funded by the Netherlands, and the municipal strengthening project in Nicaragua and El Salvador funded by France.

C. Support by the international donor community

25. One of the characteristic features emerging from the CIREFCA process has been the mobilization of the support of the international community. This support has had three main components: political commitment, the provision of non-reimbursable financial resources, and the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action. Both at international meetings of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee and at informal meetings at the regional level or through participation in support groups in countries where they have been established, the international community has clearly stated its position with regard to the promotion and protection of the human rights of the target population and its active support for the processes of dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the principles and criteria set out in the Concerted Plan of Action.

26. The commitment of the donors cooperating with CIREFCA has been constant throughout the period 1989-1994; their financial contribution has been considerable - more than $400 million - and they have adapted and developed their assistance in keeping with the evolving situation and the problems of the convening countries. In CIREFCA the donors have found a framework for regional action which has facilitated the coordination of efforts beyond political frontiers. This framework has been sufficiently broad and flexible to accommodate their various centres of interest and their very varied forms of assistance. Various bilateral and multilateral donors have participated in CIREFCA, both in policy-making and financially, from the outset. Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America have cooperated on a bilateral basis; at the multilateral level, important contributions have been made by the European Union and various United Nations agencies.

D. The role of non-governmental organizations

27. CIREFCA established the conditions for an increase in the active and visible participation of humanitarian NGOs. Through cooperation and dialogue with their respective Governments, the considerable financial support of the international community (more than one third of external aid provided within the framework of CIREFCA has been channelled through NGOs) and the support of similar organizations in Europe and North America, NGOs have succeeded in: strengthening their programmes; establishing collaborative links with each other, transcending the narrow vision which many of them had of their own work; consolidating their role in promoting the protection of uprooted populations; and identifying and executing projects. In some cases, NGOs have complemented the activities of UNHCR with regard to the protection of refugees, especially in areas in which the dispersion of refugees and the lack of formal recognition of the status of refugee was preventing UNHCR from responding promptly when individuals or groups required international protection.

28. The dialogue between NGOs and Governments led to the preparation of concerted strategies in favour of the uprooted populations, which included the treatment of their rights; this has facilitated reconciliation in the countries of origin and local integration in the countries of asylum.

29. CIREFCA promoted coordination within NGOs themselves. It also facilitated a process of rapprochement and mutual awareness between UNDP and NGOs working with uprooted populations. In March 1993, the first regional event in which representatives of international and regional humanitarian NGOs and two regional NGO networks concerned with development participated with UNDP took place in Managua. This meeting was followed by seminars on the concept of human development and a training programme on the formulation of projects for the reintegration of the uprooted.

30. One of the outstanding characteristics of CIREFCA is that it has actively incorporated NGOs into the official processes of discussion and decision-making with regard to assistance to the uprooted in Central America; this is one of the main legacies of the process.

III. THE CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE

A. A broad framework of action

31. At its meeting on 22 and 23 September 1993, the Follow-up Committee emphasized the need to make the CIREFCA process lead to a regional initiative of human development in which the achievements and the pending agenda of the Conference would be taken up again. At its meeting on 14 February 1994, the Follow-up Committee spelt out the orientation of its activities as being to ratify the need to give continuity to the treatment of uprooted populations in the new Central American context, by introducing a change of emphasis to sustainable human development through coordinated national strategies, reflected at the local level and linked to macroeconomic and sectoral policies, in areas which the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico regard as priority areas for the consolidation of peace and the eradication of extreme poverty.

32. The concern of the Governments of the seven convening countries of CIREFCA was also shared by the other actors participating actively in the process. For example, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, at its forty-fourth session in October 1993, agreed to request UNHCR and UNDP to convene an informal technical meeting to ensure the incorporation of the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons into the future strategies to be adopted once the CIREFCA process had been concluded.

33. Pursuant to that resolution, an informal technical meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, in February 1994, at which more than 120 representatives of the convening countries, the international community, national and international NGOs and agencies of the United Nations system endorsed the approach to the post-CIREFCA phase proposed jointly by UNHCR and UNDP. This proposal was based on consultations with the principal CIREFCA actors and took as its central elements the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace, 6/ the sustainable human development strategies (at the national and local levels) proposed by UNDP, and the threefold strategy (prevention, emergency preparedness and durable solutions) proposed by UNHCR for Central America.

34. The meeting recommended that a third, and last, international meeting of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee should be convened not only so that the CIREFCA process could be formally closed but also so that renewed commitments could be made to implement sustainable human development strategies in Central America which would also deal with the unresolved problems of uprootedness. Following an intense three-month exercise involving discussion and cooperation, the convening Governments and non-governmental organizations, with the support of the field offices of UNHCR and UNDP in the seven countries, identified priority areas and formulated strategies and new or renewed commitments.

35. These national exercises in cooperation led to progress in the definition of the outlines of a broad framework of action. The emphasis has been placed on national strategies which support efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and social exclusion by focusing on priority geographical areas. This broad framework results from an awareness that is essential to eradicate poverty in order to promote the consolidation of peace and a solution to the problem of uprootedness. The challenge therefore is to try to deal with the causes of uprootedness and social exclusion and not only with their more evident manifestations.

36. The proposed framework of action centres on the following strategies:

(a) Territorial approach. It focuses activities on the territorial level in order to maximize their impact, giving priority to geographical areas that are critical to each country, areas where, depending on the circumstances, the highest levels of conflict might be compounded by uprootedness, extreme poverty, social exclusion and/or serious environmental degradation, or where there might be a specific set of border problems;

(b) Participation/coordination. It proposes expanded participation/coordination both with regard to the national actors taking part and with regard to levels of participation, including participation at the local level;

(c) Sustainable human development at the local level. It sets in motion strategies for sustainable human development within each of the priority geographical areas;

(d) Linkage to national policies. It proposes and steers national policies in support of the strategies at the local level, and ensures that local activities are operationally linked to macroeconomic and sectoral policies and to the State's decentralization processes;

(e) Regional dimension. It recognizes that the problems being tackled transcend local or national boundaries and that certain solutions call for region-wide initiatives.

B. National strategies

37. At the aforementioned Third, and last, International Meeting of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee, the Governments of Central America, Belize and Mexico presented concerted national strategies and made commitments as follows:

38. Belize adopted a human development strategy at the local level as a means of alleviating poverty and addressing the pending issue of uprootedness. The Government of Belize undertook to review the problem of the documentation of illegal immigrants and the consolidation of the integration of refugees, with a view to finding an equitable solution to this problem. The concerted strategy of Belize lays great emphasis on capacity-building at the grass-roots level and requests international assistance in meeting the high social and economic costs of integrating a large percentage of the immigrant and refugee population in its territory.

39. Costa Rica proposed as the centre-piece of its strategy an anti-poverty campaign consistent with the protection of nature. The Costa Rican proposal involves promoting sustainable human development at the local level within the framework of Agenda 21, adopted by the Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. 8/ This proposal focuses on selected geographical areas, serving the interests of the most vulnerable population groups and building on the progress made within CIREFCA in integrating refugee populations.

40. As part of an approach involving integrated development and eradication of poverty, the proposal of El Salvador gave priority to areas where uprooted populations and other groups affected by the conflict are located. El Salvador laid special emphasis on the need for the various sectors of society and other participants to continue their involvement in the formulation and implementation of plans on behalf of those population groups and areas.

41. On the eve of signing the Peace Agreement, Guatemala expressed its determination to ensure that the peace would be not only firm and lasting, but also revolutionary in the sense that it would promote positive changes in the country's situation and consciousness. The Agreement signed at Oslo on 17 June 1994 (A/48/954-S/1994/751, annex I) between the Government and URNG on the integration of returnees and populations displaced as a result of the conflict affords a very encouraging prospect for the peace process in Guatemala.

As part of a policy of addressing the issue of uprootedness within the context of peace-building, Guatemala's strategy is aimed at promoting human development and political, social and economic rights. It proposes to do so as a matter of priority in those areas identified as being of strategic importance to peace, where the problems of uprootedness are compounded by the highest levels of poverty.

42. On the basis of its national strategy to promote human development at the local level, Honduras has identified three border regions as priority regions for the implementation of programmes and projects in pursuit of that strategy, in the context of a policy to combat poverty and foster broad grass-roots involvement. Those areas provided shelter to refugees and experienced a problem of internal displacement that has not yet been resolved; action is needed to overcome the high rate of poverty and social exclusion, and to create the social and economic conditions that would encourage the displaced groups to return.

43. Mexico will support the process of voluntary repatriation, will continue offering humanitarian assistance to Guatemalan refugees and, at the same time, will expand cooperation programmes for the development of reception areas. Mexico undertook to consider fully integrating those refugees living in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo who do not want to return to their country, depending on how the process of repatriation to Guatemala evolves.

44. The proposal of Nicaragua was consistent with its policy of national reconciliation and rehabilitation and its strategy of joint revitalization. The objective is to consolidate peace, support the process of social and economic reintegration in the context of sustainable human development, and promote human rights and broad public participation. Nicaragua presented a concerted plan of action giving priority to 16 municipalities.

45. All the national strategies place emphasis on the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the social, political and economic spheres, as well as on measures to preserve the environment and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

IV. A NEW REGIONAL COMMITMENT IN THE FACE OF POVERTY, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND UPROOTEDNESS

46. The brief review of the national strategies shows clearly that the peoples and Governments of Central America, Belize and Mexico are willing to channel efforts to meet new challenges. Although the situations and problems are extremely diverse, there are common features in the definition of the tasks to be performed. For example, it has been decided that efforts should focus on geographical areas with the highest levels of poverty, uprootedness and environmental degradation. In the countries that have experienced conflicts, such areas are of strategic importance in consolidating peace and reconciling society. In these areas, the Governments will implement integrated and sustainable development strategies that are people-centred, fully aware that this work at the local level will be successful only if it is accompanied by an institutionalized process involving national policy measures in the social, economic and financial spheres. The national strategies stress that public

participation and coordination among governmental and non-governmental agencies and the organized representatives of civilian society are prerequisites for national reconciliation and the strengthening of democracy. These are the specific characteristics of the policies to be applied under the new commitments assumed by Central America in the face of the challenge posed by the conditions of poverty and the fragility of the hard-won peace.

47. The Declaration of Commitments adopted by consensus at the Third International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee sets forth the commitments undertaken by all the participants in order to continue supporting the consolidation of peace in the region. The new framework of action calls for a change in emphasis - from the short-term programmes of the past to sustainable human development strategies in selected geographical areas. Likewise, there is a need to promote human rights and democratic processes, eradicate poverty and social exclusion from the region, and address the outstanding problem of populations uprooted as a result of the conflicts of the past decade.

48. In the text adopted, the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua undertook, inter alia, to guarantee equitably "to all their inhabitants [of the duly identified geographical areas] the full exercise of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights"; to place "emphasis on measures to solve problems of access to land, land tenure and certification of land titles, as well as access to technical assistance, credit and markets"; to "execute actions to broaden employment and income opportunities for the poorer populations in the prioritized areas and to ensure the feasibility of durable solutions for the voluntary repatriation and the reintegration of returnees and displaced persons"; and to make "the necessary national and local budget allocations for investment and operation".

49. In support of the commitments undertaken by the Governments, the non-governmental organizations expressed their willingness and commitment to "participate through their presence and provide technical assistance and human, material and economic resources" to strengthen peace and democracy and promote respect for human rights; to "participate in the formulation of concerted responses to the ... needs of the uprooted population"; to "contribute to the definition, design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects"; to "strengthen and intensify dialogue" among themselves, as well as with government institutions, United Nations agencies and international financial institutions; and to "strengthen the presence of their networks" in the prioritized areas.

50. For their part, the donors represented at the meeting made the commitment to "continue providing their political, technical and financial support"; to participate, "while respecting the norms and procedures of each donor, in the concerted formulation, financing and implementation of strategies and actions for the prioritized areas"; and to "provide priority support to local efforts and initiatives promoted by both governmental and non-governmental actors".

51. Likewise, the United Nations agencies and programmes represented at the Meeting made the commitment to "provide joint support, through their offices, resources, services and their national and regional programmes, to the efforts and actions of the Central American Governments and societies to address the

pending agendas related to uprootedness, development of prioritized areas and implementation of national policies adopted"; and "to continue to promote the processes of dialogue, work and reconciliation with the affected populations, non-governmental organizations and representations of society".

52. In particular, UNDP committed itself to "providing priority support, through its national and regional programmes, to the efforts and actions of the Central American Governments and societies to eradicate poverty and address the pending agendas on uprootedness, as well as to continue formulating, in a concerted and participatory manner, strategies, methodologies and periodic evaluations to make the concept of sustainable human development operational in its different dimensions". For its part, UNHCR "will continue to ensure international protection and the promotion of durable solutions for the refugees, returnees and populations 'of special concern' to UNHCR. This will be carried out in accordance with its mandate, the policy established by the High Commissioner with regard to prevention, the principles established in the conclusions of the UNHCR Executive Committee and the document adopted by CIREFCA in 1989 entitled 'Principles and Criteria for the Protection of and Assistance to Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Latin America'".

53. Lastly, the CIREFCA convening countries decided, in view of the request made by the Government of Panama, to invite Panama to become part of the group of CIREFCA convening countries.

54. As a follow-up measure, the Governments of the convening States, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and programmes, donors and intergovernmental organizations considered it necessary to establish a Temporary Commission which would have 90 days to discuss, in a joint and representative fashion, the type of national and regional mechanisms that might be proposed to favour the promotion, implementation and follow-up of the commitments embodied in the Mexico City Declaration.

Notes

1/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; for printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085, annex.

2/ See A/44/527 and Corr.1, annex.

3/ A/46/864-S/23501, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1992, document S/23501, annex.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

5/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

6/ A/47/277-S/24111; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992, document S/24111.

7/ A/48/935.

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), Vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.